

CLARA BARTON: A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE WORLD

Learning Objective(s): The students will

1. Understand the characteristics of good citizenship as exemplified by Clara Barton.
2. Communicate in oral and visual forms.

TEKS: SS K.2B, 15B, 1.13C, 18B, 2.13C, 19B

Materials Needed: the symbol of the American Red Cross (attached), copies of the attached Biography Card about Clara Barton, a coin for every student in the class, copies of the Commemorative Coin attachment for each student, crayons or colored pencils

Vocabulary: American Red Cross, battlefield, citizen, commemorative, hospital, minted, soldiers

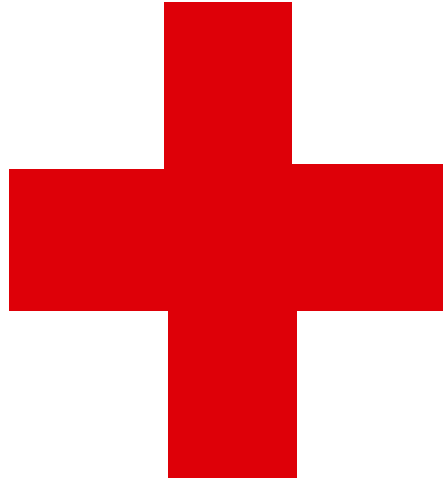
Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by showing students a picture of the symbol of the Red Cross (attached) and asking them if they know what the symbol represents. Explain that the symbol represents the Red Cross, which is an organization that helps everyone during disasters such as tornados, hurricanes, floods, and other emergencies as well as wars.
2. Inform students that the woman who began the Red Cross in the United States was born on Christmas Day in 1821. Have students read the attached Biography Card about Clara Barton.
3. Lead a discussion concerning the characteristics of good citizenship that Clara Barton exhibited during her life. Have students note specific ways Clara Barton made a difference in other people's lives.
4. Pass out a coin or assorted coins to each student in the class. Have students examine their coins and share the type of information/images that are on their coins.
5. Give each student a copy of the Commemorative Coin attachment. Explain to students that Congress allows commemorative coins to be minted to celebrate or honor outstanding American people, places, and/or events. A limited number of these special coins are produced, and the coins can only be purchased for a specific amount of time.

6. Instruct students to design a commemorative coin to honor Clara Barton. The front of the coin (obverse) should include her name, a picture of something Clara Barton did, and an important date in her life. The reverse side of the coin should contain a short phrase describing Clara Barton and a symbol that represents one of her characteristics.
7. After students have completed their coins, they should color them with crayons or colored pencils. Students should share their coins with the class.

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Have students create an advertisement for selling their commemorative coin to the public. The advertisement may be in the form of a newspaper advertisement, a 30 second television commercial, or a web page design.

SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS



CLARA BARTON (1821-1912)

Clara Barton was born in Massachusetts, on Christmas Day in 1821. When she was a child, she played nurse and even cared for sick pets and injured animals. When she was eleven, her brother fell from the barn rafters, and Clara took care of him for two years until he got better.

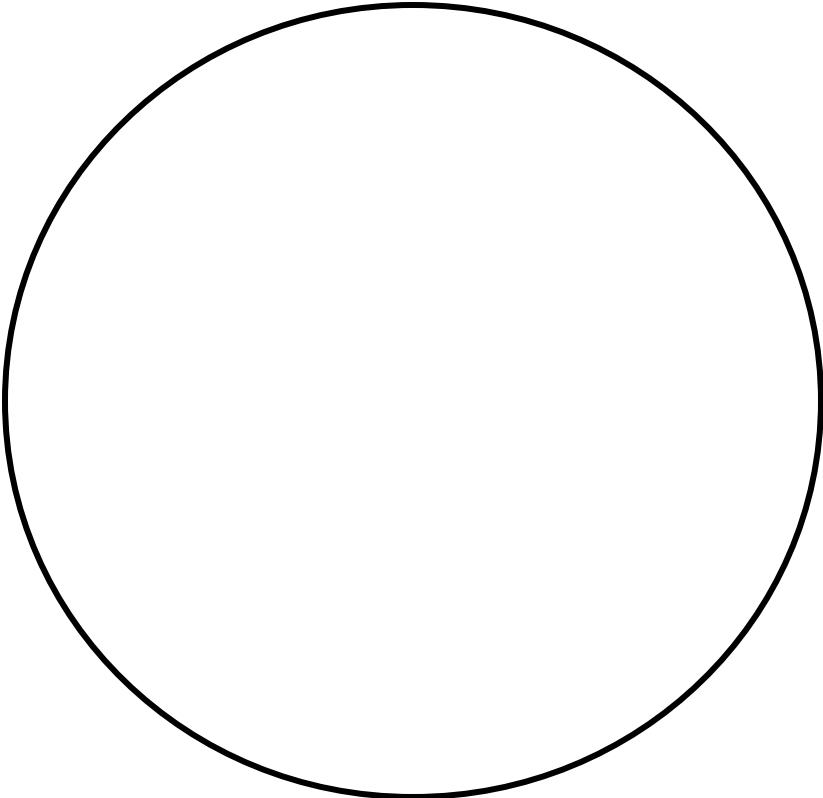
When the American Civil War began in 1861, Clara wanted to help others and was responsible for getting medicine and supplies for hurt soldiers. Clara was very determined and was eventually allowed on the battlefield to care for wounded soldiers. She was called the “Angel of the Battlefield.”

After the war, Clara Barton searched for missing soldiers. She found out what happened to over 22,000 lost soldiers and then told their families.

Clara went to Europe where she worked with the International Red Cross, which was an organization that gave medical help to all sides during wartime. After returning to the United States, Clara Barton worked for several years to try to get support for starting a similar group in the United States. At the age of sixty, she established the American Red Cross in 1881. For over twenty years Clara Barton served as the president of the American Red Cross giving aid to victims of floods, hurricanes, forest fires, and wars. She died at the age of 91.

COMMEMORATIVE COIN

**FRONT
(OBVERSE)
SIDE**



**REVERSE
SIDE**

